Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:NEA:WRCRAWFROD, JR. APPROVED BY:NEA:WRCRAFWORD, JR.

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R 040359Z MAY 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 113481

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ANKARA DATED MAY 3, 1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON, TEHRAN, ISLAMABAD IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 3400

FOR NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR ALSO FOR IO/OIC DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS APPROPRIATE TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING, MAY 10

REF: ANKARA 3399

1. AS YOU KNOW THE PAKS ASKED PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS DURING THE LONDON MINISTERIAL ABOUT THE VALUE OF CENTO IF THE ALLIANCE DOES NOT ADDRESS SECURITY PROBLEMS AS PERCEIVED BY THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. THE REGIONAL MEMBERS, AND PAKISTAN IN PARTICULAR, HAVE CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO INJECT THE CONCEPT THAT SOVIET AGGRESSION THROUGH PROXY STATES IS A THREAT WITH WHICH CENTO MUST DEAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. THE ASCENSION TO POWER IN AFGHANISTAN OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT FURTHER FOCUSES THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES ON THE ISSUE OF PROXY WARS. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE CAN EXPECT THAT PAKISTAN WILL DEMAND THAT THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER BE QUICKLY COMPLETED, THAT THE THREAT TO PAKISTAN OF A COMMUNIST AFGHANISTAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR,

AND THAT CENTO MILITARY PLANNERS PREPARE FOR THE CONTINGENCY OF AFGHANI AGGRESSION ON PAKISTAN.

- 3. CENTO SECGEN GURUN HAS NOW SENT ME AN URGENT LETTER (REFTEL) REQUESTING THAT WE ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND OTHERS AT A COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING ON MAY 10. SUBSEQUENTLY, GURUN WILL FLY TO ISLAMABAD I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE MEET EXPECTATIONS THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SERIOUSLY AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OUR ASSESSMENTS OF THREAT TO THE CENTO REGION FROM AFGHANISTAN.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: BEFORE MAY 10, I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING AS FULL AND CANDID AN ANALYSIS OF THE AFGHANISTAN SITUATION AS WE CAN PUT TOGETHER THAT I CAN SHARE WITH THE CENTO DEPUTIES AND POLICY GUIDANCE ON HOW THE THREAT TO THE CENTO REGION IS AFFECTED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT THERE.

 SPIERS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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